

Source of Funds

Before a teacher can complete an order, he must know how much money is available. At the present time, policies vary considerably in the State as to how much money can be spent by a school and as to how the funds are to be obtained. In one county, a dollar per student in each high school is placed in the budget prepared by the county board of education. In some units a specific sum of money, e.g. \$150, is placed in the budget for each school. In a number of administrative units, no funds are allocated in the budget for science supplies; in these cases each individual school has the responsibility for obtaining funds for its science department. In a majority of these schools, funds are secured by charging each student taking science a fee. These fees vary from \$0.25 to \$2.50. Unfortunately, there are some schools where no special effort is made to provide funds on a yearly basis from any source.

Since conditions vary considerably from school to school, no specific plan for financing the science department is presented in this bulletin. However, it is important that each school or each administrative unit, place in the budget a specific amount for science supplies and equipment. Experience indicates that it will take at least \$2.00 per year per student taking science to keep a department in good working condition once it has all the basic equipment.

State Contract

In North Carolina the Purchase and Contract Division in the Department of Administration receives bids each year for science supplies and equipment. Contract certification Number 334, listing companies awarded contracts, covers supplies and equipment not only for high school science departments but also for all State institutions. An inspection of this certification shows that high schools receive sizeable discounts on many items which they order, e.g., for 1957 two companies priced non-franchised items at current list price less 55%. Since many of the items ordered by high schools are non-franchised, such as ringstands, one can easily see that considerable savings are made by having State contracts.

Contracts are renewed each year, becoming effective on January 15. A copy of the contract certification is sent to each super-